



Orientation Guide

Formal Responsibilities:

President:

The President is in charge of maintaining decorum, reviewing the events, and receiving questions and motions from the floor. The President makes rulings regarding the behavior or comments of delegates, and is in charge of points of procedure to ensure the UN is being run properly.

Secretary- General:

The Secretary- General is elected to oversee the United Nations operations. The Secretary General represents the administration of the UN and is consulted upon by the President for advice; he is available to answer any questions which may arise.

Secretariat:

The Secretariat is a right-hand man for both the President and Secretary-General. He/She is responsible for answering questions through pages, tallying votes, and assisting in administrative duties.

Pages:

Pages are a means for the General Assembly to communicate with one another without moving. Notes can be written to other delegations or the Secretariat, and are delivered by pages. Each note must be relevant to the debate at hand, and clearly marked who it is intended for, and who it is from.

Delegates:

Each country of the Model United Nations is represented by two or three delegates. It is the delegation's responsibility to research, learn and express their country's opinion within the Model United Nations General Assembly. The delegation does not express one's own opinion, but rather the opinion of the country they are representing.

Bloc:

A group of nations that share common interests and usually act in collaboration in international affairs

Committee:

A group of people officially delegated to perform a function, such as investigating, considering, reporting, or acting on a matter.

Resolution Guide:

What is a Resolution?

Delegates are responsible for discussing the topic outlined by the resolution. Delegates are responsible for researching their individual country's response to the situation outlined in the resolution. The United Nations passes resolutions, not laws. A resolution is the most appropriate means of applying political pressure on Member States, expressing an opinion on an important issue, or recommending action to be taken by the United Nations or some other agency. UN General Assembly and its specialized Agencies and Organizations resolutions follow a common format. Each resolution has three parts:

1. The Heading
2. The Pre-ambulatory Clause
3. the Operative Clause

The entire resolution consists of one long sentence with commas and semicolons throughout the resolution and only one period at the very end. Resolutions should be single spaced, with each line numbered in the left margin. In addition to that, the first word should be underlined.

Pre-ambulatory Clauses

The first section of a resolution is called the 'Whereas Clauses', and outlines the situation or problem. These clauses give a base upon which to start your research, because you must understand the problem before you solve it, the 'where as' clauses in the Resolution cannot be changed or amended. The purpose of the pre-ambulatory clause is to supply historical background for the issue as well as to justify the action. Pre-ambulatory clauses usually participate with a quotation of the charter or past UN resolutions or precedents of customary international law relevant to the topic. Each Pre-ambulatory verb is underlined and a comma follows each pre-ambulatory clause.

Example: (Pre-ambulatory Clauses, first word)

Affirming	Deeply disturbed	Guided by
Alarmed by	Deeply regretting	Having adopted
Having considered	Observing	Having considered further
Aware of	Emphasizing	Having devoted attention
Believing	Expecting	Realizing
Bearing in mind	Having examined	Recalling
Confident	Having studied	Recognized
Contemplating	Fulfilling	Having heard
Convinced	Fully aware	Having received
Declaring	Fully alarmed	Keeping in mind
Deeply concerned	Fully believing	Noting with satisfaction
Deeply conscious	Fully deploring	Noting with deep concern
Deeply convinced	Further recalling	Noting with regret
Taking note	Welcoming	Desiring
Nothing further	Seeking	Referring

Operative Clauses

The second section contains the “Be it resolved that” (BIRT) clauses, and outlines the ways that the problem can be solved through the UN system. These solutions make use of any means or agencies of the UN. It is the delegate’s responsibility to decide (based on their research) if their respective country will support the solution, and what changes need to be made. These changes are to amend the wording of the BIRT clauses.

The solution in a resolution is presented through a logical progression of sequentially numbered operative clauses. These clauses may recommend, urge, condemn, encourage, request certain actions, or state an opinion regarding an existing situation. Each operative clause calls for a specific action. The action may be as vague as denunciation of a certain situation or a call for negotiations, or as specific as a call for a ceasefire. Keep in mind that only Security Council resolutions are binding upon Member States. Operative clauses begin with an active, present tense verb and are followed by a semi-colon, with a period placed at the very end.

Example: (Operative Clauses, first word)

Accepts	Affirms	Approves
Authorizes	Calls	Calls upon
Condemns	Confirms	Considers
Declares accordingly	Deplores	Designates
Draws attention	Emphasizes	Encourages endorses
Express its hope	Further invites	Further proclaims
Further recommends	Further reminds	Further requests
Further resolves	Have resolved Notes	Proclaims
Reaffirms	Recommends	Regrets
Reminds requests	Resolves	Solemnly affirms
supports	Takes note of	Urges

Analyzing Proposed Resolutions

Tone of a resolution

The tone of the resolution should be noted. A mild, conciliatory resolution would call on parties to seek a peaceful settlement to a dispute through negotiations, and might not make any reference to a specific solution or outcome. A stronger resolution could take a clear stand by condemning certain actions by a country or countries, and calling for specific actions to solve the dispute.

Wording of a resolution

Keep in mind that some resolutions are intentionally vague in order to gain widespread support, while other resolutions have specific details that guide future actions. The structure of the committee itself will dictate the strength of the resolution. If the committee is only advisory, then the wording of the resolutions will use phrases such as “suggests” and “supports”. If your committee has its own budget and its own executive council, then the resolution should be a detailed outline for future committee actions in that topic area.

The precise wording of the resolution must be examined carefully when you are debating how to vote. The references in the preamble should be checked, if your country's policies support the general goal of the resolution, but you have reservations about the wording of certain sections in the resolution, you should attempt to seek changes in the language to make the resolution more acceptable.

Amendments

An amendment is a clarification or change in a resolution that incorporates additional interests or concerns after the resolution has been formally submitted to a committee. Basically, an amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete (strike out) or substitute from part or a phrase of the current draft resolution.

There are two types of amendments:

1. Friendly: A friendly amendment is proposed by any member of the body and accepted by the original sponsors, the change is incorporated into the resolution without a vote of the Council.

2. Unfriendly: An unfriendly amendment is a modification that can be proposed by any member of the body, but does not have the support of the sponsors. Unfriendly amendments must be formally submitted to the President/ Chairperson in written form. A vote will be taken on all unfriendly amendments to a resolution immediately prior to the vote on the entire resolution.

* Adapted resolution writing procedures from Vienna International Model United Nations, 2003. <http://afa.at/vimun/resolution1.doc>